

MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Mike Kehoe
Governor

Kurt U. Schaefer
Director

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Jim Simmons
Mayor
City of Benton
21 West North Street
Benton, MO 63736

RE: C295925-01 City of Benton, Missouri – Wastewater Improvement Project
Categorical Exclusion

Dear Mayor Simmons:

Enclosed is the Categorical Exclusion Determination prepared by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources regarding the proposed Wastewater Improvement Project for the City of Benton, Missouri in Scott County.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Joshua Brown, P.E., at 573-526-2415, or Department of Natural Resources, Financial Assistance Center, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176. Thank you.

Sincerely,

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

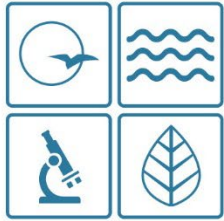
Lauren Graessle, P.E.
Director

LG:jbb

Enclosure

c: Michael Montgomery, P.E., Heartland Engineering, LLC
Southeast Regional Office
Joshua Brown P.E., Department of Natural Resources, Financial Assistance Center
Randy Montgomery, Department of Natural Resources, Financial Assistance Center





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City of Benton, Missouri
Scott County
Wastewater Improvement Project
C295925-01

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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT IN THE CITY OF BENTON, MISSOURI.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has conducted an environmental review of the proposed project for the C295925-01 project to serve the City of Benton, Missouri. The proposed project was analyzed in the Wastewater System Improvements Preliminary Engineering Report dated June 30, 2022, along with two addenda for the facility plan, dated September 26, 2023, and October 9, 2024, respectively (hereafter referred to as facility plan). The city is in southeast Missouri with a 2020 census population of 866.

The review was performed in accordance with the department procedures for implementing Clean Water Commission regulation 10 CSR 20-4.050 Environmental Review and it has been determined that this project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. Accordingly, the department is exempting the proposed project from further substantive environmental review requirements provided the project remains unaltered as described in the facility plan.

The following is a brief description of the proposed project and a brief statement of how the action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion:

Description of the project:

The Benton wastewater system improvements project is focused on enhancing both the collection system and the wastewater treatment facility to ensure long-term reliability and regulatory compliance. The collection system upgrades target reduction of inflow and infiltration through rehabilitation techniques, including lining and point repairs, to decrease the amount of groundwater entering the system. These efforts will help alleviate hydraulic stress during wet weather conditions and improve the overall performance of the sewer network.

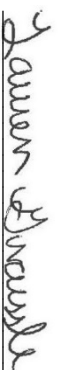
At the wastewater treatment facility, Lagoon Cell No. 1 shall be improved through a series of targeted upgrades. These include repairing and reinforcing the lagoon's berm, installing a floating baffle to optimize hydraulic flow, and adding aeration to Lagoon Cell Nos. 1a and 1b to enhance biological treatment processes. The project also includes installing a new influent screen



for debris removal and repairing the damaged ultraviolet disinfection system to maintain effluent quality. Notably, all construction activities will take place on previously disturbed earth, minimizing environmental impact and preserving the surrounding natural areas. Together, these improvements will modernize the system and provide a sustainable solution for Benton's wastewater management needs.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106, notice was given to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and all tribes that may attach a religious or cultural significance to historic properties in the region that may be affected by this undertaking.

The documentation to support this decision will be available for public scrutiny upon request at the Department of Natural Resources, 1101 Riverside Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101. Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Joshua Brown, P.E., Technical Reviewer, or Randy Montgomery, Project Manager. You may also submit comments in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, Financial Assistance Center, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176. E-mail comments will be accepted at the following address: DNR.SRFPublicNotice@dnr.mo.gov. Please include the project name and number in all comment letters.



Lauren Graessle, P.E.
Director
Financial Assistance Center



Joshua Brown, P.E.
Technical Reviewer
Financial Assistance Center

DISTRIBUTION

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P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
c/o Ann D'Alfonso – WWPD/SRFB
dalfonso.ann@epa.gov

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Geological Survey
Environmental Geology Section
P.O. Box 250
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Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks
State Historic Preservation Office
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SRF File C295925-01

The Honorable Jim Simmons
Mayor
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City of Benton Wastewater Treatment Improvements



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